

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY L/P,M: J H SMITH

APPROVED BY L: L R MARKS

ARA J BUSHNELL

EUR W LUERS

IO/UNP R BARRY

HA R COHEN(SUBS)

S/S -O;LRFLEISCHER

P T MILLER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127679

NODIS

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TAGS: GW, UR, CU , CASC

SUBJECT: PRISONER EXCHANGE: LUNT-LEBRON

1. CONGRESSMAN GILMAN HAS REPORTED TO THE DEPT. THE
SUBSTANCE OF A PHONE CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH RABBI
GREENWALD AND KALMANOWITCH WHO MET ON WEDNESDAY WITH
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VOGEL IN EAST BERLIN. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO DIS-
CUSS LUNT-LEBRON TRADE AND OTHER POSSIBLE FUTURE EXCHANGES
OR RELEASES.

2. ACCORDING TO GILMAN, GREENWALD REPORTS THAT THEY MET
FOR FOUR HOURS IN VOGEL'S OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN. VOGEL
SAID THAT HE AND HIS PRINCIPALS PREFERRED THAT THE

CONTACTS ON LUNT-LEBRON BE KEPT INFORMAL THROUGH THE VOGEL-GILMAN CHANNEL. VOGEL CONFIRMED THAT THEIR CHIEF INTEREST WAS A ONE-FOR-ONE, LUNT FOR LEBRON TRADE.

3. VOGEL, ALWAYS WITH A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC, IS REPORTED TO HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE EXCHANGE BE ACCOMPLISHED AT SEA, WITH BOATS DEPARTING FROM MIAMI AND HAVANA, MEETING MIDWAY. ACCORDING TO VOGEL, THE CUBANS NOW SEEM TO WANT LOLITA TO GO TO CUBA, AT LEAST INITIALLY.

ACCORDING TO GILMAN, WHEN HE HEARD THIS, HE INSTRUCTED KALMANOWITCH TO GO BACK TO VOGEL AND TO MAKE CLEAR THAT IT WAS PROBABLE THAT IF LEBRON WERE SET FREE IT WOULD BE WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS, AND SHE COULD GO ANYWHERE SHE WISHED, AND THAT HE (GILMAN) WAS NOT CERTAIN SHE WOULD WANT TO GO TO CUBA.

4. SOMEONE (APPARENTLY GREENWALD) RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE WERE ADDITIONAL PERSONS WHO COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE DEAL. VOGEL ASKED WHETHER THERE WERE OTHER AMERICANS IN WHOM WE WOULD BE INTERESTED. IN TURN, GILMAN ASKED THE DEPARTMENT (SMITH, L/PM) FOR A LIST OF AMERICANS IN CUBA. SMITH DECLINED TO GIVE GILMAN SUCH A LIST BECAUSE TO DO SO MAY INDICATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDERING A TRADE AND WE DO NOT WANT ANY POSITIVE SIGNALS CONVEYED TO CUBA UNTIL WE HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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AUTHORITY TO DO SO. GILMAN AGREED NOT TO GIVE KALMANOWITCH OR VOGEL THE NAMES.

5. VOGEL EXPLAINED THAT THE DELAY IN THE DECISION-MAKING WAS CAUSED BY THE FACT THAT CUBANS WERE COMMUNICATING WITH HIM VIA COURIER AND THERE WERE ONLY TWO FLIGHTS PER WEEK WHICH THE COURIER COULD TAKE.

6. BOTH CONGRESSMAN GILMAN AND WAINRIGHT (LUNT'S LAWYER) REQUESTED SMITH TO HAVE THE DEPARTMENT CONTACT VOGEL, THROUGH THE DCM IN BONN, TO DETERMINE ACCURACY OF THE REPORT FROM GREENWALD. DEPT. DOES NOT INTEND TO ASK DCM TO MAKE SUCH A CONTACT BECAUSE VOGEL HAS CHOSEN A PRIVATE CHANNEL AND TO INTRODUCE AN OFFICIAL CHANNEL MAY LEAD US TO PLAY INTO HIS HANDS. WE BELIEVE IT BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL WE ARE CONTACTED DIRECTLY, EITHER BY THE CUBANS OR VOGEL. FURTHERMORE, IF THIS BREAKS DOWN WE WILL BE ABLE TO SAY THAT WE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO CONTACT WITH VOGEL AND NO ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE MESSAGE FROM VOGEL IS VERY CONFUSED, AND AS WE HAVE SEEN IN EARLIER ITERATIONS THROUGH THIS CHANNEL, IN THE END PROBABLY NOT VERY ACCURATE. WE INTEND TO WAIT UNTIL WE ARE CONTACTED,

EITHER DIRECTLY BY VOGEL OR BY THE CUBANS, BEFORE WE DO
ANYTHING. IN THE MEANTIME, DEPT. IS CURCULATING A MEMO-
RANDUM TO OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES FOR THEIR VIEWS ON THE
LUNT-LEBRON TRADE. VANCE

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